

Bristol Sept 3. 1846. —  
 (F.D. tells us that this is his birthday  
 to freedom —)



Dear Sir

As I know that sympathy in the great  
 cause is precious to you, I hope I may not seem  
 to be intruding unnecessarily on your time if I send  
 you a few lines to tell you how deep a sympathy ap-  
 pears to be excited by our friend Mr. Douglass's visit, &  
 how warm a desire is manifested to show an effectual  
 interest in the cause. — The meeting last night was one  
 of the most deeply moving ones I ever was present at.  
 There was a heavily crowded audience, all deeply feeling  
 the cause of humanity, listening with alternate expressions  
 of indignation, compassion, sympathy & enthusiasm to a  
 fugitive slave, who now stood before them as "a man & a  
 brother" pleading for his enslaved brethren; — and with what  
 force! I do not recollect ever to have heard such a mass  
 of powerful reasoning, facts impressively brought  
 forward, touching appeals, & keen sarcasm & graphic descriptions.  
 And sitting on the platform near him was the venerable  
 Joseph Reynolds, son of the philanthropist Richard Reynolds,



most to him Eliza Brewster! He was a great object of  
interest to the meeting, & gave a few words of sympathy.  
It was beautiful to observe the deep interest he took in  
Mr. D's speech, & in the demonstrations of sympathy. The  
closing scene I wished you & some Abolitionist friends to have  
witnessed. The rounds of applause were quite stunning; &  
Mr. D. most pleasantly contrasted his treatment in England  
with that he had received on his return to democratic America. He  
rejoiced, as we do, that Eliza Brewster was present to bear witness  
to the truth of his statements on his return to America. Mr. D.  
did not withdraw without being assisted by a multitude of hands  
eagerly held out to offer him a fraternal grasp, & indeed he & his  
audience seemed quite unwilling to part. The whole was a  
heartstirring & never to be forgotten scene. I trust that Eng-  
land will send forth a voice which shall be heard in the very  
strong holds of sin & oppression. — But my principal object  
in writing was to tell you what I have heard today of the  
interest excited. It happens to be the day which I devote to  
visiting my poorer friends, & I went armed with the E. Brewster  
Board of Brotherhood, & the Bazaar papers. — On my way I  
was happy to be able to bid a last farewell & God speed to  
J. D. whom I saw setting off. Afterwards went to call on  
a sailor who had been at the meeting; I wish I could express  
to you his deep interest; he said that he had never been  
present at any thing which so deeply moved him, to imagin-



that one possessed of such high powers should have been  
a slave until eight years ago. He had been planning what  
he should make for the Bazaar. He had heard E. Brown to see  
the preceding Sunday, signed his pledge, & undertakes to  
secure these names; to forward the object he proposed ac-  
companied every article he sent home with a bond of  
brotherhood. Is it not delightful to see good seed springing  
up so soon? - A young woman whom I found sitting very  
happily working by her husband, who (being a chimney sweep)  
was in a blacker condition than any negro, to hardly believe  
what I told her of "Nigger laws" in churches; - you are  
quite right in supposing that the English people cannot  
realize the horrors perpetrated in "free" America. - Then  
I went into a "ragged school" we have lately commenced for  
wretched children deep in sin & misery. (One beloved Dr.  
Tuckerman sowed that good seed here, in a soil well  
prepared & watered by my revered father.) The Master had  
been at the room the evening before, & could only express  
his feelings by saying that what he had there heard was  
support & encourage him through all his trials with  
the children during the next six months. - In short  
every one seems of the same mind & heart in the  
matter, & I trust that something effective will be done.



4th -  
Candour obliges me to say that there was one expression in  
Mr Douglass's speech which I & others much regretted. The  
only allusion he made to Unitarians was "that he did  
not blame them for inconsistency in holding the fellowship  
with slaveholders, because as they admitted sheepstealers  
to their communion it was not to be wondered at if they  
admitted manstealers." This of course called forth a derisive  
laugh, very painful to the Unitarians present. Now it seems  
to me that this was a sarcastic & unnecessarily offensive  
manner of stating the fact that Unitarians do not shut  
the Lord's table against any who there desire to profess them-  
selves his disciples; - whether they are sincere & consistent  
is a matter between God & their own consciences; we  
do not invite sheepstealers, nor have I heard of any one  
openly engaged in criminal conduct coming to our Commu-  
nion; - such a one, if he offered himself, would be re-  
monstrated with by our ministers. The expression there-  
fore gave a very incorrect impression. If he had  
said that though from the Unitarians had risen glorious  
advocates of the cause, Channing, Follen, & others, yet  
that these ministers as a body were untrue to their  
high profession of civil & religious liberty &c. &c., I should  
have been glad that they should have been thus rebuked.  
Now I am quite sure, my dear Sir, that F. D. had not  
the least intention of giving so much unnecessary pain, or  
of strengthening in the public mind the idea that we are



not Christians; - he has I understand given a satisfactory explanation to Mr. Armstrong, which will I hope abate the evil. I have mentioned the matter because I think people do not always know how much harm such expressions do; be fully assured that it does not in the slightest degree diminish our regard for him, as I am sure he did not mean any thing unkind, & I think he knows that the Unitarians in England have been foremost in holding out to him the right hand of Christian & brotherly fellowship. -

When I began, I had no idea of reflecting on you so long a letter; - indeed it needs much excuse that after so short an acquaintance I should venture to write to you as an old & confidential friend. - But indeed, my dear Sir, I feel to you as such; - since Miss Martineau's book first led me to a knowledge of your course, I have felt the warmest sympathy with your exertions, & desired to have the privilege of personal intercourse with you. And now I hope that you will reckon me among your friends. What a close bond of brotherhood it is, without any signing or pledging, to be all working together God's work! But you know well that we have much to do at home, & this must call forth our constant & warm devotion of heart & mind; we have a slaving of sin & ignorance at our very doors which is appalling. At this very time a few of us are trying to carry knowledge & virtue to some of the poorest ones in the form of what is called in the public prints a "ragged school", we call it a Free School; we have happily found a man deeply



intended with. In love & patience who will undertake this most difficult task, Isaac Phelps; - he has already led back to the path of virtue one poor outcast, who had not been under a roof for many months, who had been twice in prison, & whipped. The very night his Father's home received him, the police had planned committing him to prison as a vagabond. Mr. P. took him with him to the Broadmead meeting "clothed & in his right mind;" - the attention of numbers was fixed in astonishment on the poor fellow; - he said he understood much of what Mr. Douglass said, because he had felt it himself. - I mention this incident as it will give you a little insight into our calls for exertion at home; we have also many schools, a Domestic Mission & such I wish you could have staid long enough to see, that you may give us your sympathy in return for ours. -

I have written to Mr. Barker & to our head friends of your purpose of visiting their towns; - J. B. is at present in Dublin <sup>at Mr. Phelps's</sup>. I hope that you will not be prevented from going there as Leeds is an important centre of a populous district. -

Our warmest & best wishes will attend you to your home my dear Sir; - you will have a friendly meeting with us in the Antislavery box, in which you will find for you a copy of the Memoirs of our dear Father, with whom we wish that you should become acquainted; - you will findly keep it in remembrance of us. - Mr. Brother Keppell seems much pleased with Mr. D.'s visit, which has excited great



enthusiastic at Worcester

My sister Anne fully accords in what I have  
said about the suspension of J. D. O. <sup>and</sup> <sup>perhaps</sup> <sup>thought</sup> <sup>perhaps</sup>  
not to say any thing to him about it, as he may not understand  
it to be a matter of his will not to be understood as  
one regarding it. He only said, "I am not sure  
You know that we have a deep & true love for  
the cause & regard for him." It was a little  
disappointed that he had not time to write a few  
lines in our books in memorial of his visit: -  
we wished to place your "beloved brother's" writing by  
you; - do you think that he will on Sunday, or  
when he has a few minutes to spare, write a  
few lines, perhaps those he quoted from Campbell, on  
two pieces of paper, & send them to us by post  
that we may insert them. I am almost ashamed  
of troubling you about the matter, but I do esteem  
it a favour if you will manage the affair for us.

If any of the circumstances I have men-  
tioned to you should be likely to be interesting to your  
friends at home you are quite at liberty to  
place them at Mrs Chapman's disposal, as coming from  
an English lady, or from N. E. Bristol; - you must  
forgive our feminine weakness, in not liking to see  
our names in print. - I am well, my dear Sir,

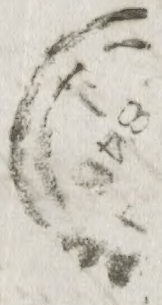


My Mother & Sister warmly participate in most friendly  
regards & best wishes to you. I Mr. Douglass, I believe will  
to remain, yours very faithful friend,  
Mary Carpenter

PAID - 5/11



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My direction is.

Mrs. Carpenter

Lt. George M

Bristol